

Our Ref: MN10143-2025
Your Reference: Petition 4223-2025

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16 October 2025

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
clerksoffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Clerk

I refer to Petition 4223-2025 *Declare a state of emergency on homelessness*. I thank the petitioners for bringing this issue to the attention of the House.

The *Disaster Management Act 2003* (the Act) and the *Disaster Management Regulation 2014* form the legislative and regulatory basis for disaster management within Queensland. As the housing crisis does not meet the definition of an “event” under this framework, the Act is not applicable.

However, the Crisafulli Government recognises that homelessness is one of the most urgent challenges facing our state – and we are acting decisively to turn the tide after a decade of failure under the former government.

Over the last decade of Labor, an average of just 509 social homes were delivered per year across Queensland – despite record population growth and escalating demand. That inaction created the housing crisis we are now working to fix.

The Crisafulli Government has taken immediate steps to rebuild Queensland’s housing foundations and support those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Through the 2025-26 State Budget, the Crisafulli Government is delivering a record \$8.1 billion housing package – the largest housing investment in Queensland’s history – to deliver a place to call home for more Queenslanders.

A centrepiece of this investment is our commitment to deliver 53,500 new social and community homes by 2044, supported by \$5.6 billion over the next four years and permanent baseline funding of \$500 million per year from 2029-30 onwards – locking in long-term funding certainty and reversing years of short-term, stop-start delivery.

This long-term commitment is underpinned by the new Queensland Community Housing Investment Pipeline (Q-CHIP) – an ‘always-on’ procurement model that provides a scalable, transparent and sustained pipeline that empowers community housing providers to grow and deliver more homes for vulnerable Queenslanders.

Alongside our unprecedented housing delivery program, the Government has committed \$592 million over five years to deliver new crisis accommodation initiatives and strengthen frontline housing and homelessness services across Queensland. Specialist Homelessness Services are being supported to deliver integrated responses that help Queenslanders in crisis find safety, stability and a pathway to long-term housing.

These record investments will only succeed if the system itself works better. That's why the Government has established the Homelessness Ministerial Advisory Council (HMAC) – bringing together key housing and homelessness sector leaders with senior representatives across government. HMAC provides an ongoing forum for engagement and collaboration, ensuring our homelessness response addresses the full range of factors that drive housing insecurity. By working together, government and the sector can better align frontline services, remove duplication, and deliver more effective outcomes for Queenslanders experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Our Housing Outreach and Mobile Engagement (HOME) teams play a critical role, as part of a co-responder model working alongside state-funded Specialist Homelessness Services, local councils and other parts of government to conduct outreach at known homelessness locations. This model provides a contemporary and integrated response, addressing individual needs through a range of housing, health and other government and community support services. The HOME team also collaborates with local councils and other government agencies to support broader initiatives aimed at reducing homelessness.

Frontline staff, including those in our Housing Service Centres, also play a crucial role in delivering housing assistance and homelessness support services, working closely with Specialist Homelessness Services to provide immediate assistance. For those seeking long-term social housing, eligibility and housing needs are assessed through a consistent process that prioritises the most vulnerable Queenslanders, including individuals experiencing domestic and family violence or homelessness. Our HSCs also offer a range of services to support Queenslanders into private rentals including through the Rental Security Subsidy and Bond Loan products.

We are also developing a new 20-year housing plan to meet Queensland's housing needs and deliver a sustainable, stable housing system. The new housing plan will include actions to support Queenslanders experiencing housing pressures by fast-tracking critical infrastructure, empowering community housing providers to deliver more homes and delivering more support for people facing housing instability.

While homelessness does not fall within the scope of the Disaster Management Act, our Crisafulli Government is absolutely committed to fixing the housing crisis – building new homes, supporting frontline services, and partnering with community organisations so that every Queenslanders has access to a safe, secure and sustainable place to call home.

If you require further information, my office can be contacted at housing@ministerial.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Sam O'Connor MP
Minister for Housing and Public Works
Minister for Youth